

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GE MG
SUBJ: HONECKER SPEAKS ON FRG, BELGRADE AND THIRD WORLD AS
MONGOLIAN DELEGATION VISITS GDR

1. A DELEGATION OF THE MONGOLIAN REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S
PARTY UNDER FIRST SECRETARY JUMSHAGIN ZEDENBAL ARRIVED
IN EAST BERLIN MAY 3 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT WHICH BOTH
SIDES ANNOUNCED WILL CULMINATE IN A NEW GDR-MONGOLIAN
TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP. THE FIRST DAY WAS TAKEN UP WITH
AN OPENING ROUND OF TALKS, A CEREMONY IN WHICH HONECKER
PRESENTED ZEDENBAL WITH THE GDR KARL MARX MEDAL, AND A
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STAXTE DINNER. HONECKER USED THE LATTER OCCASION TO
SPEAK ON FRG-GDR RELATIONS, BELGRADE, AND GDR SUPPORT
FOR THE THIRD WORLD.

2. HONECKER'S REMARKS ON THE FRG WERE UPBEAT.
HE DESCRIBED THE STATE OF FRG-GDR TIES AS "BETTER THAN
ITS REPUTATION" AND UNDERScoreD GDR INTEREST IN THE

CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RELATIONS. HONECKER POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IMPROVEMENT DEPENDED LESS ON THE "PRESENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE 80 OR 100 POINT CATALOGUE" (A REFERENCE TO NEW PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED BY THE FRG) AND MORE ON THE REALIZATION THAT FRG-GDR RELATIONS MUST BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. HONECKER ALSO TOOK A POSITIVE APPROACH TO BELGRADE, DESCRIBING THE PERIOD SINCE HELSINKI AS HAVING BEEN A SUCCESSFUL ONE. HE NOTED THAT THE GDR WOULD ARRIVE AT BELGRADE WITH A POSITIVE RECORD AND SAID THAT, IN CONTRAST TO PESSIMISTS WHO SOUGHT TO UNDERMINE DETENTE, THE GDR APPROACHED THE FUTURE WITH OPTIMISM.

4. IN REFERRING TO ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY AS A "BASIC PRECEPT" FOR THE GDR, HONECKER STRESSED GDR "HELP ACCORDING TO OUR ABILITIES" FOR THE PEOPLE OF CHILE, ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, GUINEA-BISSAU, ETHIOPIA, ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA. HE ALSO MENTIONED GDR "SUPPORT" FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND NORTH KOREA.

5. COMMENT: HONECKER'S REMARKS ON THE FRG WATER DOWN SOMEWHAT THE GDR'S USUAL DEMAND THAT THE FRG RECOGNIZE THE GDR'S BORDERS AND GDR CITIZENSHIP. THIS DEMAND, USUALLY CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN GDR STATEMENTS, COMES ONLY IN A VAGUE REFERENCE TO UNNAMED PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH MILD TREATMENT OF THE FRG, ALONG WITH HONECKER'S POSITIVE WORDS ON BELGRADE, INDICATE THAT THE GDR IS SEEKING TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONTROVERSY WITH THE FRG BEFORE BELGRADE. ALTHOUGH HONECKER DOWNPLAYED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SMALLER CONCRETE STEPS IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS AS LONG AS MORE BASIC PRINCIPLES WERE NOT OBSERVED, THE FACT THAT HE MENTIONED THE "80-100 POINT CATALOGUE" WHICH WILL SOON BE PROPOSED BY THE FRG MAY BE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF GDR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE FRG.

6. WITH ZEDENBAL'S VISIT, MONGOLIA WILL BECOME THE LATEST COMMUNIST ALLY TO SIGN AN UPDATED FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH THE GDR TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE GDR'S RECENTLY-ACHIEVED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. THE GDR RECENTLY SIGNED A NEW TREATY WITH HUNGARY AND GIEREK IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT EAST BERLIN BEGINNING MAY 29 TO SIGN A NEW GDR-POLISH TREATY. WE NOTE THAT BOTH HONECKER AND ZEDENBAL SPOKE OF THE NEED TO

EXTEND DETENTE BEYOND EUROPE TO ASIA AND OTHER
PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND THIS LINE WILL MOST
LIKELY BE REFLECTED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS THE
END OF THE VISIT.POLANSKY

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